

of Christians. Among the late legends of the Byzantine writer Codinus, we find the story that Constantine raised to the memory of Crispus a golden statue, which bore the inscription, "To the son whom I unjustly condemned/* and that he fasted and refused the comforts of life for forty days. Of even greater interest is the legend that Constantino was baptised by Sylvester, the Bishop of Rome, and, in gratitude for the promise of pardon, bestowed upon the see of Rome the *damnosa Ji&redi-tas* of the Temporal Power.

There is no necessity to discuss at length the once famous, but now simply notorious, Donation of Constantine, The legend is so grotesque that one wonders it ever imposed on the credulity even of the most ignorant. For it represented Constantino as being smitten with leprosy for having persecuted the Church and for having driven the good Pope Sylvester into exile. The Emperor consulted soothsayers, priests, and physicians in turn, and was at last informed that his only chance of cure lay in bathing in the blood of little children. Forthwith, a number of children were collected for this dreadful purpose, but their cries awoke the pity of Constantino and he gave them respite. Then, as he slept! Peter and Paul appeared to him in a dream and bade him let the children go free, recall Sylvester from exile, and submit at his hands to the rite of baptism. This was done; the baptism was administered ; Constantino was cured of the leprosy, and in return he made over to Sylvester and his successors full temporal dominion over the city of Rome,